**Chapters 9-12**

**4/15/12**

**Summary**

In chapter 9 Paul returns to the front and goes in No Man’s Land to get information about the enemy’s strength. On his way back, he becomes lost and an attack begins. He realizes that he must lie still and pretend to be dead, so he crawls into a shell hole to wait until the attack is over. An enemy soldier jumps into the shell hole with him, and Paul quickly stabs him. He talks to the dead soldier, explaining that he did not want to kill him. Hel finds a picture of a woman and a little girl in the man’s pocket. Paul copies his address and resolves to send money to his family anonymously. In chapter 10 Paul, Tjaden, Müller, Kropp, Detering, and Kat have to guard a supply dump in an abandoned village. They use a concrete shelter for a dugout and take advantage of the opportunity to eat and sleep as much as they can. The enemy sees smoke from the house and attacks them. They get to a dugout and are safe. They live in this house for three weeks. In chapter 11 the war continues to go badly for the Germans. The quality of the soldiers’ food worsens. The Germans’ weapons are worn and useless against the newer, more powerful artillery of their enemies. Kat is wounded while returning with food that he has scavenged. Paul painstakingly carries him to the dressing station while shells crash around him. When he reaches the station, still carrying Kat, he discovers that Kat has been hit in the head by a fragment from an exploding shell and he is dead. In chapter 12 it’s the autumn of 1918 and Paul is the only living member of his original group of classmates. The war continues to rage, but now that the United States has joined the Allies, Germany’s defeat is inevitable. After inhaling poison gas, Paul is given fourteen days of leave to recuperate. Paul is killed in October of 1918, on an extraordinarily quiet, peaceful day. The army report that day contains only one phrase: “All quiet on the Western Front”.

**Analysis**

Overall I really enjoyed this book. I think it was a good description of war and what the soldiers go through. I learned a lot by reading this book. I thought it was sad how Paul had to kill that one soldier and he felt so bad about it. I could never kill someone like that. The hardest part was when he found the picture of his wife and daughter. I am glad he sent money to them and I know it made him feel better. Soldiers have to go through so many crazy events. It takes the right person to be a soldier because they have to be emotionally strong to go through all of that. In the end I thought that it was sad that Paul died after everything that he survived. At least he died peacefully and the author tried to make it a happier ending than a sad ending.

**Application**

One characteristic that spans time and culture is the psychological aspect of human nature. To be in the military you have to be emotionally strong. Your mind has to be prepared to handle everything that soldiers have to see or do. Many soldiers also have psychological issues that affect them after the war. This can be very hard for some to handle. Another characteristic that spans time and culture is how people think. After Paul killed the enemy soldier he found a picture of his wife and daughter in his pocket. This made him feel horrible and he decided to send money to his family to make up for killing him. All people always think of things they can do to make a situation better especially when they feel really guilty about something. Another characteristic is how humans try to achieve harmony and perfection. When in the military the soldiers are trying to be the perfect to soldier to defend their country. They are also trying to get rid of all of the enemies to achieve harmony between their two countries. There are many human characteristics that span time and culture.